

DEMOCRACY

PARTY OF LIBERTY AND EQUAL RIGHTS.

Platform of Principles As Adopted
At the Territorial Convention
At Roswell, June 10th.

Endorses Great Champion of the People's Rights, William J. Bryan—Scathing Denouncement of Election Frauds and Proofs Cited—Nominations by Direct Vote Approved—Demands Single Statehood—Position of the Party on Other Important Questions Stated in Straightforward Way.

"EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL."

We, the Democrats of New Mexico, in delegate convention assembled at Roswell, again renew our pledge of allegiance to those fundamental principles of democracy as originally enunciated by our first great leader, Thomas Jefferson, chief among which is contained in the maxim: "Equal rights to all, special privileges to none." We believe this maxim, rightly applied, is capable of solving all the great questions which are now agitating the minds of the American people; the reform of the tariff, the suppression of the trusts, the regulation of the railroads and the attitude of our government towards imperialism.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

We recognize that the Democracy of the United States has today many tried and trusted leaders, any one of whom would, worthily fill the office of chief magistrate of this great nation, but we cannot fail to recognize the further fact that there is one Democratic leader who, above all others, has identified himself with all the reforms now demanded by our party and who has indicated firm and unswerving adherence to Democratic principles and whose very name at once constitutes a platform from which the Democracy of this nation could well stand in the coming campaign. In other words we believe the nomination of William Jennings Bryan by the Democratic convention at Denver is demanded by every consideration of political principle and party policy.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the delegates to be selected by this convention to represent the Democracy of New Mexico at the Democratic national convention to be held at Denver on July 24, 1908, be and they hereby are instructed to vote for William Jennings Bryan as the candidate of our party for the presidency of the United States as long as his name is before the convention.

REPUBLICAN MISRULE.

Public office is a public trust, and no man is worthy of any office, either elective or appointive, who does not appreciate the obligation he is under, not alone to his party, but to the whole people whom he serves, to faithfully and impartially discharge all of his official duties, and we condemn the Republican party of this territory for its disregard of this principle, for its maladministration, corruption and ring rule, even for that brief period of time during which one chief executive of the territory was endeavoring to adhere to and carry out some of the principles of government we advocate and endorse, and which efforts resulted in his removal from office by a Republican president.

ELECTION FRAUDS.

We call the attention of the executive and of the judicial departments, and of the people of this territory generally to the many open, shameful and defiant frauds and violations of our election laws that have disgraced our public elections in this territory in the past, and notably at the last general election. It was conclusively proved by legal and competent evidence and was not denied, that in the coal camps of Colfax county the polls were established by the order of the commissioners of the said county on the private lands of the respective companies owning and operating coal mines; that the managers of said companies arbitrarily refused to allow any Democrats to be present at the polls; that in some of said coal camps Democratic check-books were subjected to indignities and forcibly ejected from said mines by deputy sheriffs acting under instructions from the managers of said companies; that the ballot boxes were stuffed and the registration and poll books were padded and hundreds of foreigners were compelled to vote the Republican ticket under threats of discharge. We call attention to the fact that these arbitrary acts have been continuously practiced in Colfax county for the past eight years until they have ripened into an established system.

The undoubted record of the county of Valencia in election matters for the past quarter of a century has been a stigma and a reproach upon the fair

name of New Mexico. It is a proven and established fact that it is not even required that the voters should go to the polls in that county, but that the officers of the election board cast the ballots for all the absentees, while in some instances the registration lists are copied into the poll books in strict alphabetical order. At the last election in this county and in Torrance county, Republican ballots were substituted in place of Democratic ballots actually cast, and in one precinct in the latter county the judges of election openly refused to permit any Democratic ballots to be cast.

The foregoing instances are but a few of the many open and defiant violations of our election laws, and it is humiliating to be compelled to acknowledge that with the single exception of Mr. Frank W. Chaney, district attorney of the second judicial district, no action has ever been taken by any Republican official, national or territorial, to stop these abuses or to punish the offenders.

We demand, and if entrusted with the power, we pledge ourselves to a strict enforcement of the election laws by the courts and prosecuting officers.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

We are heartily in favor of the nomination of all party candidates by a direct vote of the people at primary elections held for that purpose under the sanction of the law, and hereby pledge our representatives in the next legislature to work and vote for such a law.

SALARY SYSTEM.

We believe that all county officers should be paid fixed salaries, instead of fees or commissions, for all services required of them by the government.

FOREST RESERVES.

We condemn the policy of the federal government in prohibiting the free grazing of live stock in the forest reserves of the territory, as unwarranted and arbitrary; such policy tends to injure and destroy the interests of many small live stock raisers and may create a monopoly of that industry by the very few wealthy owners of sheep and cattle. The conservation of our timber in such reserves and the wise regulation of its use in order to prevent the waste and destruction is a commendable economic measure, but the free use of the lands in such reserves for the grazing of live stock, under suitable regulations, does not in any manner interfere with the proper care and protection of the timber growing therein, and we pledge the best effort of our candidate for delegate to congress to secure the removal of pasturage charges.

RAILROAD COMMISSION.

We recognize that under an act of congress the interstate commerce commission has complete jurisdiction to regulate rates to be charged by common carriers doing business in New Mexico. We charge that in numerous instances such rates are not only exclusive and exorbitant, but gross in justice is done through discrimination. We therefore favor the creation of a commission by legislative enactment whose duty it shall be to investigate the facilities furnished, rates and discrimination and where injustice is being done any citizen or community present such grievances to the interstate commerce commission for adjustment. The commission so to be created should be composed of persons identified with the principal commercial and industrial interests of the territory and funds should be provided so that every citizen or locality may obtain just treatment from common carriers at public expense.

STATEHOOD.

We favor and demand the admission of New Mexico into the Union as a state. For about twelve years the president and both houses of congress of the United States have been dominated by the Republican party, and during all that time the people of New Mexico have been begging and praying for statehood. All our appeals have been in vain. We therefore charge that all declarations of the national Republican party in favor of statehood for New Mexico are not sincere, but made for the purpose of increasing territorial elections, and we regretfully express it as our profound conviction that New Mexico will never obtain statehood except at the hands of a national Democratic administration.

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DEATH STRICK- EN FOLSOM.

Present at Scenes of Sorrow Following Flood Tragedy O. B. Earickson, of Gross-Kelly Company, Almost Eye-Witness of Horror.

WASHOUT HELD UP HIS TRAIN

Was Forced to Return After Night on Road to Trinidad.

Las Vegas Optic, Aug. 29.

Ollie B. Earickson, of the Gross-Kelly Company of this city, was what might be termed an eye-witness of the Folsom flood horror.

Though Mr. Earickson was not actually present at Folsom when the water swept over the little city and brought death to eighteen, he had left there but a few hours before and was back there the day following the washout. He saw the awful effects of the flood and witnessed the scenes of sorrow and bereavement.

Mr. Earickson says there were eighteen who met death in the flood. The town is built along the banks of an arroyo which is known as Dry Cimarron, and it was the rush of the water through this usually waterless creek-bed that wrought the damage.

Four or five hundred wagon-loads of heavy stone was piled in the street in front of a business house, Mr. Earickson says, and when the waters receded there was not so much as a scrap of gravel that remained. All had been swept away.

The people who met death in the flood: Says Mr. Earickson, were among the most valued residents of the little city. Out of a population of perhaps 300, about 12 per cent were drowned.

The flood was not caused by a cloudburst, but was the result of a terribly heavy rain of three hours, duration, a wide expanse of country draining into the arroyo which ran through Folsom.

A telephone message from a point much higher up the creek-bed gave warning which enabled Mrs. Rooke to warn and save the lives of so many by means of the telephone. Mr. Earickson fully confirms the story of Mrs. Rooke's heroism.

He says there was almost none of the main business district swept away, but that water flowed into the cellars and destroyed large stocks of goods. There also was great loss to live stock and half a mile of railroad grade was washed out.

Mr. Earickson left Folsom on the train at 9 o'clock the evening of the disaster, which came at 11.30. He was bound for Trinidad, but the train could not get through and the next day he, in company with the other passengers, was taken back to Folsom where, by walking a considerable distance he was enabled to board another train and get out of the flood-smitten district.

The remains of Mrs. S. J. Rooke, the heroine of the disaster, who gave her life while endeavoring to warn the people, are reported to have been found 40 miles down the river. The body of one of the Wheeler children and that of the infant of Mrs. Guerin have not, and probably never will be recovered.

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KNOBLAUCH LAND COMPANY.

A general funeral over all the bodies was held at Folsom yesterday and the bodies will be shipped to different points for interment.

To the death list known Friday are added the names of Mrs. Mary Cox and her 18-year old daughter, Demotrio Guerin; foreman of the C. & S. coal chutes, his 17-year old wife and an unknown man. So far as is known the death roll is eighteen.

The town hall of Folsom yesterday was turned into a morgue and at intervals during the day, parties bearing the bodies of victims of the flood, reached the village with the mutilated remains. Nearly every body had been stripped by the branches of trees and jagged rocks. The bodies of women victims were further disfigured by being literally scalped, their hair catching in the trees.

Late Saturday the body of D. B. Wenger was found many miles from Folsom.

The residents are sorely in need of aid.

Miss Mae Wenger and her 10-year old brother, D. B. Wenger, jr., the only surviving members of the family, were taken to Trinidad and are being cared for at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Wright, lifelong friends of the family. The bereaved brother and sister are fairly stunned by the awfulness of their loss and the sympathy of the community goes out to them at this time.

Reports are beginning to reach here of enormous flood losses on Johnson mesa, especially on the west end which is the richest agricultural section in this part of the southwest. An idea of the force of the flood which swept that vicinity may be gathered from the statement of ranchers who say that several inches of soil has been carried away from cultivated fields. The entire crop is lost and Attorney Atford, of Raton, reached

ed there yesterday with the report that small canyons several miles from the fields are literally filled with the tubers.

Residents of Raton are engaged in hauling the potatoes away. Those that were not carried away are left exposed to the rays of the sun which soon renders them unfit for use.

EXPERT OIL MAN ARRIVES FROM BEAUMONT.

T. J. Vorhies, of Beaumont, Tex., arrived in Roswell last night and will go to Dayton today to assist in the work of developing the newly discovered gas and oil field. He is a lifetime worker in this business and comes directly from active work in that line. He is an old acquaintance of Will Lawrence, one of the owners of the Dayton Company, and it was Mr. Lawrence who secured his services. Mr. Lawrence and J. E. Platt, who have been here several days, will accompany Mr. Vorhies to Dayton on the local freight this afternoon.—Monday's Roswell Record.

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